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A CASE OF MONSTROSITY.

Read before the Union Medical Association, By JOHN GEO. METCALF,
M.D., of Mendon. [With a Drawing.]*

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

The author of the following communication has been induced to furnish a copy of it for publication, not that he expects thereby to extend, in any great degree, the bounds of medical knowledge, or add new store to the list of remedial agents; but, simply, that an account of a case, sufficiently designated by the caption to the present article, may be preserved for future use. But what use? To assist in the discovery of the laws which regulate and govern such, at present considered, abnormal productions; to lay by, an isolated case to be sure, for future occasion, but which may serve to aid in bringing to light the philosophy of these "freaks of nature," as they have, irreverently, been called.

With regard to this matter of deformity in children, we now "see through a glass darkly." So they once did with regard to the circulation of the blood, until Harvey cleared up all doubts on that score; and who shall deny that some future physiologist may not be able to clear up the doubts which envelope the present subject, and that the laws which govern in the development of these untoward specimens of humanity may not come to be as well understood as any other physiological rule already established.

But if the publication of the present article shall subserve no valuable professional purpose, it may, at least, aid some future D'Israeli in the collection of a volume of *medical "Curiosities,"* and be found, no doubt, in the chapter appropriated to the relation of things wonderful and unaccountable. But to the case.

Mrs. ——, after a day or two of more than usual hard labor, was attacked with severe abdominal pains, soon followed by a slight uterine hemorrhage. These symptoms continued through the succeeding night without any abatement, the pains being so constant as to allow her but little, if any, sleep. At half past 9 o'clock, A. M., on the following

* This Association is, at present, composed of Drs. Allen and Ballou, of Woonsocket, R. I.; Dr. Maran, of Sistersville, R. I.; Dr. Robbins, of Uxbridge; Dr. Fisk, of Milford; and Drs. Wilder, Southwick and Metcalf, of Mendon. It was organized May 12, 1834, and, with one intermission, has continued its regular monthly sessions since. At each meeting some one reads a dissertation, and the other members contribute accounts of cases and papers upon medical subjects; after which the remaining time is taken up with unpremeditated but friendly criticism. Its meetings are held on the Monday preceding the full of the moon, at the office of Dr. Abel Wilder, in Blackstone village, in this town.

day, I was called to visit her. On my arrival I found her walking about her chamber, and, apparently, in strong labor pains. She supposed herself between six and seven months advanced in pregnancy. She has never suffered abortion; usually enjoys good health, and is the mother of two fine children. I advised her to go immediately to bed, hoping, peradventure, the premature delivery might be avoided. Complying with my advice, examination was then made, and the vertex of the fetus was found resting upon the external organs. The hemorrhage was slight, and the membranes were not ruptured. All hope of restraining the threatened abortion was now abandoned, and the customary preparations were directed to be made for the approaching delivery. The pains continued to grow stronger and more frequently occur until 10 o'clock, A. M., when the membranes were ruptured and an extraordinary flow of water followed. A few more contractions accomplished the delivery.

The child was stillborn, exhibiting no signs of life except a few feeble, convulsive motions of the extremities, which soon ceased. On examination the child was found to be deformed, as follows. The hand, if such it could be called, consisted only of the thumb and fore-finger; the other fingers, with their corresponding metacarpal and carpal bones, being absent. The thumb and finger were well formed, and the nails perfectly developed. On examination of the fore-arm, the ulna was also found to be wanting, so that the fore-arm and hand, in their osseous organization, consisted only of the radius, the ossa scaphoides, trapezium and trapezoides, the metacarpal bones of the thumb and index, together with their respective phalanges. The fore-arm was bent up towards the humerus, and could not be straightened, being apparently held in that position by a rigid contraction of the skin and muscles at the flexure of the elbow-joint.

The organs of generation presented the following malformation. A little fullness of the skin upon and below the pubis constituted what may be termed the rudiment of a scrotum. The usual site of the penis was occupied by a membranous tubercle about the size



and shape of a large pea, attached by a base of about two thirds its own diameter. At first no orifice was discovered in this tubercle, but on turning it up, upon its inferior portion and partly in its base a small orifice was found, which proved to be the opening of the urethra, as a probe, properly bent, passed through it readily into the bladder.

Referring the reader to an inspection of the accompanying engraving, further description is presumed not to be necessary to a distinct apprehension of the ideas intended to be conveyed. Could permission for dissection have been obtained, some further account of this case might have been herewith communicated.

The mother, on being informed that the child was deformed, immediately answered, "I expected it would be ; it has a hare-lip, I suppose." On being asked why she supposed this would be the case, she said an acquaintance, who was thus deformed, had been at her house two or three times during her pregnancy, and that she invariably felt very *dissagreeable* while he was present. Mothers frequently trouble themselves about the anticipated deformity of their children, but I never knew their predictions verified except in a single instance.

Mendon, June 10, 1839.

THE TOBACCO QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR.—Our patients often say, "we regret to trouble you to call so frequently," not reflecting that it is through such calls that we live. I may, with equal propriety, say to you that I am sorry to trouble you with another communication, but as it insures another grist to your mill (though it may be short measure), I trust that it will be taken in, the mill repicked, and receive "its turn."

The tobacco question has really created quite a breeze in your vicinity, if we may judge from the gentle fumy zephyrs that so frequently salute the senses, *jusqu' ici*. I have read the *pros* and *cons* on the subject, as they have been presented to the public through your prolific Journal, from all quarters, and reluctantly, though with truth, can subscribe to the verity of the old adage, "how wonderfully doctors disagree," even upon every-day questions.

In the various answers called forth, much discrepancy of opinion exists. One rails at all theory whatever, and after attempting to dislodge those which have been presented under circumstances almost irrefutable, again sets up another (for which he claims the exclusive patent), although unsupported by scarcely a tittle of evidence. For example, "The throat affection is the result of cold water taken during speaking." How this may be with the clergy in Gray, Me., I am unable to say; but really, so far as my observations extend, I doubt exceedingly whether one clergyman in one hundred, I had almost said five hundred, habitually practises water-sipping while in the desk, unless he be *ex officio* 4th of July orator, on which occasions it is accredited as a part of the ceremony. Again did the practice generally obtain, we have the

positive evidence of its inoffensiveness to the vocal organs, from the universal practice among our members of Congress, who, we are informed, invariably have water or some other liquid constantly before them for use, while addressing that body; and yet their efforts are long, and in all respects truly stentorian.

A word as to another assertion made by Dr. Allen. That "every one can testify who *has ever heard* the hoarse, thick, husky, mumbling, stammering, insonorous voice of the inveterate tobacco-chewer," is not doubted; but as yet having never had that opportunity, I must be permitted, for one, to question the justness of the remark.

Your correspondent "Senex," whose efforts heretofore have been much and justly admired, from his vast observation and experience, writes in a very plain, sensible, and candid strain, and truly in style sustains well the character which he has assumed; but, from his lamentations over "the disuse of every kind of generous drink," and encomiums upon some of our most reviled stimulants, calling them a "harmless beverage," &c., I fear will not find increasing favor with our modern reformers. With all his observation, however, he cites but one case in opposition to what was by me originally stated, viz., "that the throat affection, strictly so called and understood by the faculty, does not, as a general remark, develope itself in the habitually tobacco-using subject—that is, by chewing and smoking." He says, "In one case, at least, tobacco was not a preventive."

And here I would have it distinctly understood that I never intended to, nor ever did assert or believe, that every clergyman who does not use the weed must, *ipso omisso*, suffer from the disease in question, or that all who do indulge in it will be thereby exempted. The observation was therefore qualified by the expression, "as a general remark," &c. Neither do I admit that every species of throat disease, or unnaturalness of voice, whether from impaired explosive apparatus (the lungs), hereditary peculiarity as the sequel to some exanthematous affection, is the disease in question. Again, idiosyncrasy would present an insurmountable obstacle to a uniform law of action. All acknowledge the malady to be deplorably frequent, yet how few, very few cases have been presented, comparatively speaking, which in the least degree conflict with the original proposition above recited. Senex instances but one; and Dr. Woodward, although "fully believing that the use of tobacco is to promote rather than prevent the disease in question," and thought, in his first communication, "that of the numerous patients who had applied to him for advice, or whose cases had come to his knowledge, quite a large proportion used tobacco," cites, in his last communication, but three cases in support of his declarations, and two of the three (one of which, says he, "occurred since this communication was transmitted to the editor") had only "some apprehension that tobacco had to do as the cause of their disease." Then, again, the case of Judge Reeve (admitting "the loss of voice" to result from the disease in question, which I very much doubt, it being unaccompanied by local irritation, and believing it to be simply the effect of an atony of the vocal organs, from age or other constitutional cause, proba-

bly partial paralysis of the recurrents), is not conclusive, as it is stated that "in early and middle life only was he in the habit of smoking ;" whereas he lost his voice at sixty. That he changed to snuff-taking has nothing to do with the question as originally stated ; I never alluded to that practice but to condemn it altogether in public speakers.

Thus much for your correspondent's direct evidence from "numerous cases." But premising that no one is in doubt as to the sensible properties of tobacco, let us in a medical point review Dr. W.'s quotations from old authors, and, bating the possibility "that their opinions may have been given upon few data and without the reflection that is desirable for those whose views on this subject may have an extensive influence upon the habits of mankind," they were unquestionably uttered under the universal prejudice that exists (and, as a general remark, with much propriety) against the indiscriminate use by all, as a luxury, of every species of narcotic or stimulant whatever. But, were their opinions deemed sound in their day ? We know that the past quarter of a century has witnessed as great or greater fluctuations of opinion upon every day questions in dietetics and medicine, and among writers quite as eminent as those who have been alluded to. Compare the opinions of the most eminent writers "in this country and Europe" upon the pathology of that new interloper, cholera ; or, if you please, scarlatina, as old as the hills (and it would seem as little understood as the former), and mark the discrepancy of view, the contrariety of treatment, by each recommended and pursued for the alleviation of their destructive ravages. How wonderfully have the views on insanity and its treatment changed within the past fifteen or twenty years.

Again, where now is the vaunted "humoral pathology" of Hippocrates and his eminent disciples Plato, Praxagoras, and others of the Pythagorean school, with its "four cardinal elements"? What now is thought of the mystical "number seven" of the dogmatic? What of the harmony of the "three sympathies"? What of the "eclectic" system of George Cheyne? the "Caducus Pulmonis" of Van Helmont? And among the moderns, where now the "lentor and viscosity" of Cullen, the "septon" of Mitchell, the "pulvility of the fluids" of Hosack? Where the captivating system of John Brown, which, by the way, Rush so highly extolled? Where the "vagaries" of the imaginative "Darwin," with his amours of the plants? Gone with the age in which they flourished, as have the vain and fruitless researches of the alchemist and the fascinating forebodings of the wily soothsayer. What, now, of yellow fever, and its contagiousness? Why, believed we the eminent writers and philosophers of an age not far remote, even "European authority," the blood did not circulate in our systems, as we know that it does now-a-days ! And so potent is prejudice, that no physician of the day, over forty-five years of age, would yield assent to the theory, even after the lucid and positive public demonstrations by the author of that great discovery. How recent Bell's promulgation of the wonderful physiology of the spinal nerves? Again, the Ptolemeian system was well sustained until it was overthrown by one more strictly true, the Copernican.

Credat Judeus, seventy-five physicians of Boston "declare it [in 1836] as their opinion" (and *me judice* very properly so) "that men in health are never benefited by the use of ardent spirits." Yet how many, aye metropolitan, not an eighth of a century since, prescribed alcohol in its various forms to the aged and to those of equivocal stomachs as a life-protracting beverage, and useful renovator of the vital powers—a charming cordial! How few now ever do, although the practice is claimed to be sustained by scriptural authority; in fact, do any so dare, save honest "*Senex*"? True, high authority exists in favor of the prescription, if we "cite the opinions of the ablest and most distinguished medical men and philosophers of Europe." Asclepiades declared that "wine is an incomparable drink and a divine remedy," and the "*immortal Hoffinan*" "cures very happily with wine many fevers, the acid in its composition assisting largely to develope its healthful activity." But I will not multiply instances. Does experience, that unerring test, prove the practice to be true and safe? No. Who now sings the praises of the "*generous Falernian*"—the flowing bowl—the healthful cordial—or toasts other than the "*oaken bucket*"? "*Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur*," &c. In truth, antiquated opinions are ever on the change, and so they ought to be; thus giving place to those based upon more observation and experience and less prejudice.

Now it is not pretended that tobacco is infallible in the cases in question, nor is mercury in syphilis, or bark in intermittents; but, as a general law, each will obtain as curatives. Whether "its use for years [and I grant the habit disgusting, although '*bewitching*'] has destroyed more valuable lives or broken down the health of more useful members of society than have been sufferers from the complaint in question up to the present time, or than there will ever be hereafter," others who have less faith and experience in its prophylactic and sanative properties may decide. My observations thus far compel me to withhold my adhesion to the declaration, I had almost said declamation.

One word touching the "tendency to *intemperance*" which the use of tobacco is said by your correspondent to superinduce. What people, as a nation, use more of the article, in its various forms, than the Hollanders? yet a recent traveller through that country has had the temerity to say, that "nothing can exceed the cleanliness, the personal propriety, and the apparent comfort, of the people of Holland. I did not see," says he, "a house or a fence out of repair, or a garden that was not carefully cultivated. We met no ragged or dirty persons, nor any drunken men, neither did I see any indication that drunkenness is the vice of any portion of the people." Again, the Spanish West Indian is not less famed than the Hollander for the use of "the weed," nor less so for strict sobriety and all those kindly hospitalities which serve to render life desirable and happy. The fact is that most of the philippics upon tobacco are, and have been, uttered under the influence of sheer prejudice against its use, and are not consonant with its statistical results, of which I propose to treat at some leisure moment, if yourself and readers are not already satiated with the discussion.

In addition to the negative, already cited in my original communica-

tion—and which ought to have been conclusive in favor of the use of tobacco under certain circumstances—I will just add briefly three cases of positive evidence which have come to my knowledge, either personally or by letter, of its decidedly beneficial effects as a curative as well as preventive; having made it a point of duty to write to every individual whose name has been learned by me, either directly or indirectly, as suffering from the disease, and yet a reputed tobacco user.

One clergyman states that he formerly used the cigar, but upon assuming his professional office, for certain reasons unconnected with health, having discontinued smoking, his throat subsequently was affected, incapacitating him for public speaking, but having resumed his accustomed habit, has now no further trouble.

Another, in a neighboring city, whose case was represented to me by a friend, and with much exultation as decidedly in conflict with my proposition, was addressed, and an answer promptly received; from which I deduce the following facts—that my correspondent was a great smoker until three or four years since, when he suddenly left off for a year, then again resumed the habit; that it was during the period of abstinence from smoking that his throat became affected, and that on the resumption of the practice his throat gave him no further annoyance. The disease was therefore, it would seem, not only prevented, but cured by the use of the cigar. Still farther, that the habit was not discontinued because it injured his health, but for causes wholly unconnected therewith.

A third case is that of another clergyman (of whom more anon), who had in vain tried eminent medical skill, absence for awhile in Europe under constant attention, &c., and upon returning in absolute despair, takes up the use of the cigar by recommendation, and is now safely restored.

I forbear to extend further this communication, and will simply subscribe myself

Yours, &c.,

Providence, June 12th, 1839.

J. MAURAN.

"THE MINISTER'S AIL."

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR.—I believe, with the editor of the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, as quoted by you in this week's No. of the Journal, that "The claims of humanity are high; and in no instance more so than when preferred by the suffering clergy." The novelty of your suggestions on this disease has had the desired effect to call the attention of practitioners to it. But, unfortunately, no two writers agree in the etiology of the disease.

Whether its cause and prevalence arise from the "disuse of tobacco;" "to the disuse of stimulating diet and drink;" "to excessive speaking;" "to the use of cold water during this exercise;" to the "chilling walls at the back of pulpits against which clergymen often rest the upper part of the back, immediately after the exercise of preaching"—or, permit me to add, to the various exciting causes of dyspepsia or chronic inflam-

mation of the mucous membrane of the primæ viæ, can only be determined by statistical facts. Now we want these facts—all which have a bearing on the disease, and nothing but the facts;—not opinions, which must in most instances have been formed from too limited observations. How shall these facts be obtained? Permit me to suggest this method:—Invite some one physician or minister in each town in the New England States to send you, or some other individual, a short history of the ministers of the town where he resides, in health and disease, from its first settlement, or during fifty years past.

The following questions would show, in part at least, what is wanted to obtain a full knowledge of the disease, its causes and remedies. How many years have your ministers preached in health? How often have they usually preached on the Sabbath and during the week? What have been their habits of living—in respect to exercise, diet, tobacco and other narcotics? What have been their diseases? What their remedies? Their success? Cured, or fatal?

The answers to these questions, and other facts which they might elicit, when condensed and embodied, would present proper data on which to form opinions as to the causes and remedies of this disease.

The writer feels not only an interest in common with members of the profession, but this interest is greatly increased from the fact that his brother, a pastor of a large church and society in a town in Massachusetts, in the prime of life, has, for about two years, been unable to perform the services of the pulpit, on account of this disease, bronchitis.

Should this proposition meet your approbation, I tender you my address, as *post master*, to receive such communications; and services, if you please, to condense and prepare them in such a tabular form as would be convenient for the columns of your Journal.

Jaffrey, N. H., June 28, 1839.

Yours truly,
LUKE HOWE.

INFLUENCE OF TOBACCO ON LONGEVITY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—A strong desire is now expressed in your Journal to ascertain, from facts, the effect of tobacco in any of its forms on the health of the community. That effect can be best ascertained by the number of cases brought forward, where persons have arrived at an advanced age who have, for the greater part of their lives, been in the constant use of the article, in some form or other. Even if these cases should prove to be in number the smallest, and considered only as exceptions to a general rule, still it will prove this fact, that tobacco is not always detrimental to the operations of nature, however disgusting and filthy the practice may be. It would be desirable for physicians to ascertain, in their circle of practice, how many cases of those who have arrived to the age of seventy and upwards, have, for a series of years, constantly used tobacco in some of its forms, and a statement as to their general health during an acquaintance with them. I feel very confident (setting

aside prejudice, which governs too many in giving their opinions) that much the largest proportion of cases will be found who are addicted to what many consider a vile and unhealthy practice.

The object of this communication is to cite a marked case, to which I was called on the 21st inst., of a lady in an adjoining town, of the advanced age of 101 years last month, who has been for the last sixty years in the daily habit of smoking a pipe. In getting from her bed, the morning I was called, she fell and injured her hip, so as to cause much pain, and excite fears with the family that her hip was dislocated or fractured. On examination I could find no derangement of bones, but ascertained a paralytic affection of the left side, though slight. For the last few days her son observed she had not resorted to her pipe as often as usual, though in other respects she was as well as ever. She has been in the habit of smoking her pipe before breakfast—after breakfast—at about half past 10 o'clock—after dinner—in the afternoon—after tea—and I think, though am not certain, before retiring for the night. Her flesh feels hard; she is of a full habit, more so than women generally are at the age of seventy. Her son's wife has resided with her for twenty-one years, and says she has never taken medicine except once some animal oil for a cough, and a few times a laxative of thoroughwort, &c., prepared by the family. She has been very regular in her habits, having stated times for her food, and always a certain quantity, without any regard to the kind of food prepared for her.

On learning a history of this case, I made inquiries to learn the history of all the cases in this town of those who had arrived to the age of seventy and upwards, and have found only one instance of either male or female who had not been in the practice of using tobacco, either in form of snuff, chewing or smoking, and often all three combined. The bills of mortality for this town are, I believe, as small as any in the Union of the same number of inhabitants, and I am confident no place can be found where so much tobacco is consumed, both by young and old.

From Dr. Mauran's statement, one of our clergymen has commenced smoking for an affection of the throat. The result may at some future time be communicated.

A. G.

Warren, R. I., June 29, 1839.

MALARIA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR.—About the time the selection of a site for the lunatic asylum of the State was made, I was in conversation with a gentleman, whose opinion probably decided the choice of Worcester in preference to South Boston among other proposed places. He asked my opinion, as a physician, whether the flats around South Boston were not an objection to it as an abode for the sick. I told him, other things being equal, the fact that exposure to the sun and air of so large a surface of moist mud twice every 24 hours, was reason enough for choosing a site more inland. Medical writers, I believe, agree that the most dangerous point of the

exposure is at the junction of land and water, or where the uncovering of the mud takes place. Macculloch, some years ago, described the numerous ills flesh inherits or receives from malaria; and recently I find in the Lancet (Feb. 23 and March 2 and 9, 1839) Dr. J. Johnson's opinion on the subject, an extract from which would enlighten our citizens and city government. But my purpose is to propose, a second time, the inquiry what it would cost to take off all the flats, till the lowest tide left the ground covered with water, within one mile of the shores of E. Boston, Boston, and Dorchester. The beautiful bay above South Boston Old Bridge would be a charming spot, provided the mud was taken off for a foot or two in depth, and the new establishments of the city near Dorchester Heights, as well as the Blind Asylum, would be benefited by removing so much malaria and moisture. Two or three of the benevolent persons who occasionally drop their thousands into the charities of the State and city, could do a great service to the public, and perhaps to medical art, by proving, by a bold and extensive experiment, the good effects of having no surface round us but dry soil or flowing water. Any person who would cause a survey to be made would do much towards its accomplishment.

M.D.

June 30, 1839.

NON-CONTAGIOUSNESS OF SCARLATINA.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—If you think the following table worthy of publication, it is at your service for that purpose.

Family.	Whole No.		Attacks.	
	Adults.	Childr.	Adults.	Childr.
P. W.	-	-	2	6
J. W.	-	-	2	2
M. P. B.	-	-	3	3
F. H.	-	-	4	2
S. B.	-	-	3	3
Mrs. P.	-	-	3	
J. D.	-	-	10	2
H. D.	-	-	3	2
Mrs. P.	-	-	2	1
	32	20	3	12

The above table was constructed, from cases occurring since the commencement of the present year, to show that a large majority of those exposed to the contagion of scarlatina escape without an attack, when no prophylactic means are put in requisition. May not the protection supposed to be conferred by the use of belladonna be accounted for in the same way?

Will some of your correspondents who have made use of this article as a prophylactic agent in scarlatina, give us the result of their experience upon the subject.

Danvers, New Mills, July 1st, 1839.

Respectfully yours,

ESSEN. HUNT.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JULY 10, 1839.

DICTIONARY OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.

MESSRS. LEA & BLANCHARD, of Philadelphia, have published a second edition of this exceedingly useful book, by that indefatigable author, Robley Dunglison, M.D. The reputation of the work has always been high, and the encouragement has been such as to require more copies in the market to supply the demand. One of the advantages which Dr. Dunglison's possesses over other medical dictionaries is that, as expressed on the title page, it contains a concise account of the various subjects and terms, with a vocabulary of synomyns in different languages, and formulæ for various officinal and empirical preparations; so that the student, who is to be especially benefited by making the new dictionary his constant table companion, could not have anything to compare with it. Every medical reader also feels the necessity of having constantly before him a lexicon that is sufficiently copious.

The authors of dictionaries are very rarely appreciated: theirs is a labor of a peculiar kind, in which there is neither an opportunity for exhibiting literary power in the way most persons expect it, nor can they impress the public with a conviction of the obligations the community is under to them for anything they may have done for literature. Still, no one will pretend to deny that to analyze each word of a living or dead language, or trace out the nice relationship of terms in a nomenclature of any of the sciences, requires vast resources, and therefore presupposes a most finished and accurate species of scholarship.

It is wholly unnecessary, we apprehend, to enter into a long or formal statement of the fact, that Dr. Dunglison's dictionary, from the first day of its appearance, has been regarded with peculiar favor. And we have now a revised edition, constructed under the immediate eye of the author, who is most favorably circumstanced for adding to the previous edition whatever could give it additional claims on the score of accuracy. There are *eight hundred and twenty-one* pages, large octavo, in double columns, distinct type, of which no one ought to complain. Finally, although most of our readers may be owners of the first edition, we cordially and conscientiously recommend to all future purchasers to procure this in preference to any medical lexicon extant. Its true and sterling value, as a key to medical science, and its moderate price, are so many common-sense recommendations which should not be forgotten.

FIELDS FOR MEDICAL ENTERPRISE.

It is a curious, and at the same time an important fact, of which all foreign missionaries are apprised, that surgeons and physicians may safely reside in all the islands of the Malayan Archipelago, in Burmah and Siam, and the extensive maritime borders of the Chinese empire. Should a skilful and successful practitioner, after having become known by his benevolent efforts, attempt to effect a permanent residence in any of the northern or

eastern ports, the inhabitants would see it to be their interest, says Mr. Medhurst, to screen and shelter him; and the probability is, that he would be left unmolested longer than those whose objects are more directly missionary. For though the law which excludes the preacher, operates equally against the practitioner, yet the incipient departure from the letter of the enactment would be more likely to take place in the case of a dispenser of health, than the reformer of morals; simply because the Chinese, especially, feel their need in the one case, and not in the other. It is important for the friends of foreign missions to reflect upon this point, and make proper exertions to secure the active co-operation of the multitude of medical graduates in the United States, who hardly know where to place the soles of their feet. Without any reference to a connection with missionary enterprises, there are several countries to which the surplus number of young physicians might emigrate, for ten or twelve years only, and perhaps actually realize a larger property in that time, from professional efforts alone, than could be gathered in the overstocked land of medicals, in a successful practice of forty years. Turkey presents the most encouraging prospects—life and property being protected as vigilantly as in this or any other civilized country. Even the Turkish navy, alone, would give employment to hundreds. Egypt is another splendid field, where an American physician would do well, in almost any of the cities, or have immediate employment in the Pasha's army or navy. Clot Bey, the manager of the medical school at Cairo, cannot educate native youths fast enough to meet the demand.

Finally, several of the West India Islands and many parts of South America, hail the arrival of a physician as an act of special Providence. Even Hayti offers a good degree of encouragement, worth seeking. A Boston physician, who has been established there about twelve years, enjoys peculiar privileges, and from the quantity of coffee he has shipped, almost from the first day of his arrival, seems to have been well compensated for his services. Two young, ambitious, admirably qualified physicians leave this city in the course of a few weeks for the same productive island—where, under the mild sky of St. Domingo, and the equitable government of President Boyer, we doubt not they will acquire both reputation and fortune in less than a life-time. These hints are designed for those who are looking about almost in despair of finding a theatre on which to play the outs and ins of professional life.

Medical Convention of Ohio.—A report of the proceedings of a convention of practitioners of medicine and surgery of Ohio, at Cleveland, in May last, together with a catalogue of officers and the address of the late president, Dr. Hildreth, of Marietta, will receive further notice. It will be recollectcd that there is no regularly organized medical Society in the State, but it is pleasant to know that measures are in progress to bring about that desirable object.

Restoration of Deformed Feet.—Dr. Warner, of Richmond, Virg., is remarkably successful in his operations for the perfect restoration of club-feet. Several surgeons have of late turned their attention towards this long-neglected branch of surgery, with the happiest results. In Boston the operation has become quite common, and as far as we can ascertain, as successful, in every respect, as in any country of Europe.

Vermont Medical College.—At the recent annual commencement of this institution, at Woodstock, the degree of M.D. was conferred upon 14 graduates, and the honorary degree of M.D. upon Ptolemy Edson, of Chester, Vt.; Timothy Gridley, of Amherst, Mass.; Otis Jenks, of Melbourne, L. C.; and M. Morrin, of Quebec, L. C.

The number of students who attended the course of lectures was 80.

College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York.—Dr. Delafield, Professor of Midwifery, and Dr. Alban Gold-Smith, Professor of Surgery, have resigned their professorships in the College.

Dr. Robert Watts, Jr., of this city, has been appointed Professor of Descriptive Anatomy. This appointment, we believe, will give universal satisfaction to the profession. Dr. W. has already passed the *ordeal* of Lecturer on Anatomy, in which capacity he gave evidence of uncommon talent. Dr. W. Parker, of Cincinnati, has been appointed Lecturer on Surgery, and Dr. J. R. Manley, of this city, Lecturer on Midwifery. The new practice of appointing men as lecturers, before establishing them as professors, is a vast improvement upon the old plan. But it is not equal to the mode by *concours*.—*N. Y. Jour. of Med. and Surg.*

Dr. Paine's New Work.—The Medical and Physiological Commentaries, by Dr. Paine, are now in press, and will be published some time during the ensuing season. From our personal knowledge of Dr. Paine as an acute and independent observer, from his extensive acquaintance with the literature of the profession, as well as from his high standing as a practitioner, we have every reason to believe that his forthcoming work, constituting two large octavo volumes, will be one of no ordinary interest. The subjects to be examined in it, as stated in the prospectus, relate to obscure and controverted questions in pathology, and embrace a critical review of some of the most important doctrines in physiology and medicine.—*Ibid.*

Dr. Stewart's Translations.—Dr. James Stewart, of this city, has now in press, a translation of Billard's well known and valuable work on the Diseases of Infants. He is also preparing a translation of M. Berton's work on the Diseases of Children. This, like the former work, is founded on extensive clinical, physiological, and anatomical observations; and is intended to extend the system adopted by M. Billard, to the whole period of childhood, from the time of dentition up to the age of puberty.—*Ibid.*

Medical Staff of the U. S. Army.—At a meeting of the board of Medical Examiners in a session at Baltimore, on the 14th of June, Drs. James W. Russel, of the State of New York; Henry H. Steiner, of Pennsylvania; John C. Glen, South Carolina; Henry E. Cruttenden, District of Columbia; and James Simons, South Carolina, were admitted as assistant surgeons. Drs. J. B. Wright, John B. Wells, and Burton Randall, at another meeting of the board on the 17th of the same month, were raised to surgeons. Subsequently, Drs. John B. Porter and H. L. Heiskell were also made surgeons.

For the mode of making application for the commission of surgeon

either in the army or navy of the United States, the reader is referred to the 16th page of the American Medical Almanac of the present year.

Health of Havana.—Recent accounts from Cuba make reference to the public health. The island has not been visited for a long time by an epidemic, and at Havana, especially, it is represented to be as healthy as in any country town in the United States. This shows the good results of attending to what is appropriately called the health police of a city. Formerly Havana was designated the grave of sailors, and now it has become a delightful residence for those in pursuit of health. New Orleans and Charleston, which were threatened with the old scourge of yellow fever, appear to have been unnecessarily alarmed.

Dr. Howe's Questions.—Readers are particularly referred to a series of questions, in another part of this day's Journal, by Dr. Howe, a very worthy practitioner of Jaffrey, N. H., who has proposed an excellent plan for collecting the facts in relation to the use of tobacco, and its effects on the vocal organs of clergymen. Being post-master of the town, he kindly offers to receive all communications that may be sent him in his official capacity, which are intended to be arranged, finally, in a tabular form, and published. Our correspondents are reminded of the importance of deciding a point which has become a mooted question. Those who find it more convenient to forward their papers to this office, may do so.

Medical Society.—An association, auxiliary to the Massachusetts Medical Society, was organized at New Bedford on Wednesday last, at a convention of the Fellows of that Society from the counties of Bristol, Nantucket, Dukes County and a part of Plymouth. It is called the "Southern District Medical Society." The following are its officers for the current year: Wm. C. Whittredge, of New Bedford, President; P. Mackie, of Wareham, and A. Glazier, of Fall River, Vice Presidents; S. Sawyer, of Fairhaven, Secretary; Paul Spooner, of New Bedford, Treasurer; W. R. Wells, of do., Librarian. The first annual discourse is by appointment to be delivered by Dr. Whittredge in May next; and the semi-annual medical communications for discussion are to be read in November next, by W. A. Gordon, of Taunton, and S. Mayhew, of New Bedford.—*Nantucket Inquirer.*

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. Simmons, physician of the port of Charles-ton, S. C., announced lately the existence of three cases of genuine yellow fever, imported from Havana.—A negro, in Cincinnati, fell down dead in consequence of the shock given to his nervous system on being threatened with a flogging; it is said not to be an uncommon occurrence.—Mr. Nathan B. Jewett, a mechanic of Amesbury, still insists that he is the sole and exclusive inventor of the curious tooth instrument, heretofore referred to as the invention of Dr. Gale, of that town. The parties ought to adjust the controversy, by amicable means, at once.—Sir James Clark has at length been dismissed by the Court. He asked leave to travel a short time, and permission was granted. The truth is, his rude attack upon the honor of Lady Flora Hastings caused him to be cut in almost every circle; and for his own peace of mind it was necessary for

him to retire.—The Western Journal of the Medical and Physical Sciences has been discontinued, we understand, at least for the present. We suspect the Transylvania Journal has shared the same fate, as no number has been received here for many months. If so, there is now no medical journal published in the western or south-western States.—There were but three deaths in the city of Salem during the month of June last—one of dropsy, one of consumption, and one of old age.—Dr. G. S. Bedford, of the city of New York, has been appointed Professor of Obstetrics in the Albany Medical College.—No election of physician to the public institutions at South Boston, has yet been made.—Deaths in Philadelphia last week, 122—six less than in New York.—Dr. A. H. Stevens has resigned his situation as one of the attending surgeons of the New York Hospital, which situation he has held for more than twenty years.

MARRIED.—In Westford, Mass., Dr. Theodore Wells, to Miss Sarah E. C. Peabody.—Dr. Wm. Graves, of Lowell, to Mrs. Mary Wood.—At Mardierville, Ala., Dr. Benjamin M. Smith, of Geo., to Miss Nancy M., daughter of Dr. C. W. Chandler, of Andover, Vt.

DIED.—At Milton, Mass., Dr. Samuel P. Glover, a surgeon of the revolutionary army, 86.—At Hartford, Ct. Dr. John D. Russ, 29.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending July 6, 30. Male, 13—Female, 17.
Of consumption, 2—debility, 1—scarlet fever, 4—worms, 1—old age, 2—infantile, 2—peritonitis, 1—disease of the heart, 1—dropsy, 2—causality, 2—apoplexy, 1—paralysis, 1—dropsy in the head, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—bilious colic, 1—induration of the throat, 1—cancer of breast, 1—stillborn, 3.

REGISTER OF THE WEATHER,
Kept at the State Lunatic Hospital, Worcester, Ms. Lat. 42° 15' 49". Elevation 483 ft.

1820.	THERM.	BAROMETER.	Wind, 2, P.M.	Weather, 2, P.M.	REGD. THED.		Remarks.
					1. P.M.	2. P.M.	
1. Sun.	67 51 56	29.10 29.14 29.30	N E	Rain	44	55	
2. Sun.	66 50 58	29.21 29.22 29.30	N W	Showery	44	63	
3. Mon.	68 62 56	29.20 29.25 29.26	S	Cloudy	46	65	
4. Tues.	51 64 57	29.20 29.25 29.40	S E	Cloudy	50	69	
5. Wed.	49 51 49	29.33 29.39 29.14	N E	Rain	46	52	
6. Thurs.	49 62 56	29.10 29.19 29.26	N W	Cloudy	51	63	
7. Frid.	53 74 69	29.32 29.49 29.54	S E	Clear	50	74	
8. Satur.	56 76 68	29.58 29.58 29.44	S	Clear	65	78	
9. Sun.	62 77 71	29.27 29.19 29.10	S	Cloudy	66	79	
10. Mon.	59 74 71	29.05 29.13 29.19	N W	Clear	67	76	
11. Tues.	65 74 67	29.14 29.15 29.18	N W	Cloudy	64	73	
12. Wed.	66 66 59	29.27 29.34 29.36	N W	Cloudy	47	63	
13. Thurs.	66 58 58	29.34 29.49 29.13	N	Cloudy	48	65	
14. Frid.	46 70 64	26.22 25.33 25.32	N W	Clear	46	71	
15. Satur.	54 75 64	25.35 25.35 25.35	S E	Clear	50	75	
16. Sun.	56 68 58	26.04 25.17 25.12	N W	Clear	53	63	
17. Mon.	69 68 68	26.10 25.27 25.30	N W	Clear	46	72	
18. Tues.	59 70 64	25.38 25.32 25.09	S W	Clear	55	76	
19. Wed.	55 63 68	25.03 25.14 25.33	N W	Clear	54	64	
20. Thurs.	56 74 67	25.21 25.25 25.26	S W	Clear	47	73	
21. Frid.	58 82 70	25.23 25.38 25.21	S W	Clear	58	82	
22. Satur.	56 60 62	25.13 25.10 25.14	N E	Rain	54	64	
23. Sun.	55 72 64	25.18 25.27 25.22	N W	Clear	56	70	
24. Mon.	58 65 60	25.35 25.45 25.43	W	Rain	50	69	
25. Tues.	57 75 68	25.48 25.44 25.48	N W	Clear	56	76	
26. Wed.	55 78 72	25.48 25.51 25.50	N W	Clear	52	79	
27. Thurs.	56 69 70	25.44 25.43 25.40	S	Clear	56	80	
28. Frid.	60 60 57	25.31 25.30 25.18	N E	Rain	57	62	
29. Satur.	56 76 70	25.30 25.35 25.30	N W	Clear	54	79	
30. Sun.	55 76 70	25.40 25.51 25.56	N W	Clear	54	79	

The month of June has been a cold, wet month, and vegetation has advanced slowly. The thermometer has once risen to 62°, and has been as low as 45°. There has been one frost, which did little or no damage. The range of the barometer has been from 25.00 to 29.55. Although the weather is cool, the season is prosperous, and the crops generally look well, although backward.

BERKSHIRE MEDICAL INSTITUTION.

The Annual course of Lectures in this Institution will commence the 8th of August, 1839, and continue thirteen weeks.

Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, by H. H. CHILDS, M.D.
 Chemistry, Botany, and Natural Philosophy, by C. DREWET, M.D.
 Pathological Anatomy and Materia Medica, by ELISHA BARTLETT, M.D.
 Anatomy and Physiology, by ROBERT WATTS, M.D.
 Surgery, by WILLARD PARKER, M.D.

Fee for the course of lectures, \$50; fee for those who have already attended two full courses at an incorporated medical school, \$10; graduation fee, \$15; board, including room-rent and lodging, as at other country institutions. Library fee, according to the number of books taken out.

Fellows of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and others, who have received the degree of Doctor of Medicine, are admitted gratuitously to the lectures.

Degrees are conferred at the commencement and close of the Lecture Term. The pre-requisites for admission to an examination for the Degree of Doctor of Medicine are—three full years' study under a regular practitioner of medicine—attendance on two full courses of medical lectures, in medical institutions regularly established, one of which courses must have been attended at this institution—a sensible thesis on some subject connected with medical science—an adequate knowledge of the Latin language, and a good moral character.

The examinations will be held in presence of the Trustees, Faculty, and Overseers of the Institution, and of a Delegation from the Medical Society. The thesis must be publicly read and defended. Gentlemen who intend to present themselves as candidates for a degree, are particularly requested to procure full and formal certificates of time and age.

Jy 3—

By order of the Faculty, ROBERT WATTS, Jr., M.D., Dean.

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The subscribers, at their private medical school in Tremont street, offer the following facilities to professional students.

1. A daily attendance at the wards of the Massachusetts General Hospital.
2. Attendance at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.
3. Opportunities of seeing interesting cases and surgical operations in private practice, in the dispensaries and elsewhere.
4. Occasional opportunities for obstetric practice.
5. Lectures on surgery, and practical demonstrations in anatomy from recent subjects.
6. Regular examinations, as far as desired, in all the branches, in the interval between the lectures of Harvard University.
7. A private dissecting room, in which during the last year, an abundant supply of anatomical subjects has been gratuitously furnished.

Eighteen gentlemen have entered this school since its commencement in September last.

JACOB BIGELOW,
 EDWARD REYNOLDS,
 D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
 OLIVER W. HOLMES.

Boston, May 15, 1839.

Sam6m

MEDICAL LECTURES: DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

The annual course of Lectures in the New Hampshire Medical Institution will commence at Hanover on Thursday, the 8th of August, 1839, and be continued 14 weeks, by the following members of the faculty.

JOHN DELAMATER, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children.
 STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M.D., Lecturer on Medical Botany and Medical Jurisprudence.
 DIXI CROSBY, M.D., Professor of Surgery and Surgical Anatomy.
 ELISHA BARTLETT, M.D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Physic and Pathological Anatomy.
 OLIVER P. HUBBARD, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.
 OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.
 F. A. EDDY, A.M., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Fees for the course, \$50.00. Matriculation, \$3.00. Graduating expenses, \$15.00.

OLIVER P. HUBBARD, Secretary.

Hanover, N. H., June, 1839.

June 26—31

VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any section of the United States can procure ten quills charged with Pure Vaccine Virus, by return mail, on addressing the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, enclosing one dollar, *post paid*, without which no letter will be taken from the post office.

June 19

BROWN'S PATENT SELF-INJECTING APPARATUS.

The undersigned respectfully call the attention of medical practitioners to a newly invented instrument, which is for sale at his store, No. 481 Washington street, corner Elliot street. If physicians would examine the principles of its construction, they would appreciate its usefulness, and would probably be induced to recommend it very generally in their practice. Physicians, druggists, and the inhabitants of Boston, are particularly invited to look into the superiority of this article over the inventor's former instrument, as it now has the advantage of Goodyear's new India Rubber, which is allowed by all to be an entirely different article from that formerly manufactured.

Feb. 6—copy

WILLIAM BROWN.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR., at 194 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *post paid*. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$2.50 after three months, or \$4.00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for \$5.00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.